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THE UNITED NATIONS TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE FOR AFRICA 1978-1988 AND PREPARATION OF SECOND DECADE 1991-2000

REPORT ON ACTIVITIES UNDERTAKEN FOR THE DEVELOPMENT OF PAN-AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS (PANAFTEL NETWORK)

Agenda Item no. 7

1. Introduction

1 The United Nations Transport and Communications Decade Programme for Africa (UNTACDA) came to its end on 31 December 1988. The major achievement of the first Decade was the raising of awareness by African countries and the international community of the enormous transport and communications challenges still facing Africa. It also identified policy and programme issues which led to rational solutions, and to that extent, made a positive impact on member States. Given the difficult time during which the programme was implemented, the efforts made by African countries to improve transport and communications in the region were relatively successful. However, the Decade failed to live up to its full expectations. The global evaluation report of the first Decade which was carried out in September 1988, showed that ten years was hardly sufficient time to complete so gigantic a task and identified weaknesses in the areas of project preparation and design, resource mobilization, and institutional arrangements for implementation.

2. The specific shortcomings in the planning and design included: lack of stringent criteria and methods for identifying justifiable projects; absence of effective follow-up mechanisms: lack of experience in long-term programming of large scale activities; lack of precise goals, whether defined at the micro or at the macro level, to be attained during the Decade; absence of any established priority order between similar or competitive projects; failure to define a minimum programme consisting of a group of integrated projects, to be definitely executed during the Decade; and failure to define clear and measurable development indicators in the transport sector.

3. Another important shortcoming of the first Decade was the failure to mobilize sufficient financial resources to implement the programme. It is now evident that African Governments were overly optimistic in putting too much faith in the belief that more assistance would come from the developed countries. That this faith was misplaced, was clearly demonstrated by the outcome of the Pledging Conference in New York in November, 1979 and subsequent efforts at resource mobilization through Technical Consultative Meetings. The main reasons for the lack of response by the international donor community were poor project preparation, insufficient economic justification and lack of well defined priorities.

4. Finally, the first Decade failed to define adequately the roles of the major partners involved in the implementation of the Decade programme. This led to some confusion, particularly with regard to coordination at subregional and regional levels. For example, the fact that the role of subregional organizations in the conception and design of the whole programme was not clearly defined was probably responsible for the feeling they expressed to the evaluation field missions that they felt like outsiders to the programme even though they were expected to play a significant role in promoting it. This situation can partly be ascribed to the fact that some of these organizations were created, or became very active, only after the beginning of the Decade. Thus, although they were invited to participate in the meetings of the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee (IACC), their role was not clearly defined.

5. Consequently, the sixth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning held in Kinshasa, Zaire, in March 1988 requested the General Assembly of the United Nations to proclaim a second UNTACDA as a sequel to the first one (1978 - 1988). This request was subsequently endorsed by ECOSOC in July 1988 and the General Assembly proclaimed the second UNTACDA in December 1988.

6. It is expected that the programme for the second Decade will overcome some of the above shortcomings by fully integrating the regional and subregional organizations in the project preparation process and strengthening their capabilities to plan and implement projects. It will also engage the commitment of the major donors through their participation in a resource mobilization committee. This committee is charged with the important tasks of seeking finance for projects and providing guidance in project formulation and harmonization.

7. Even though the communication sector of the UNTACDA programme covers three subsectors; viz: Telecommunications (telephone, telex and its derivatives); Broadcasting (radio & TV); and Postal services, the focus of this report is on the telecommunications subsector. It begins with an examination of progress in the implementation, use, operation, development of human resources and management of the regional network in the country of UNTACDA; the global preparation of UNTACDA II, 1991-2000 with emphasis on telecommunications subsector objectives; Strategies and Guidelines. Finally the paper concludes with the roles of the various partners during the preparation and implementation of UNTACDA II.

2 Development of Telecommunications Facilities and Services During UNTACDA

2.1 Background

8. During the past twenty-five years Africa has undergone a process of rapid development and modernization of its telecommunication systems. Starting from the early 1960s when the African telecommunication systems consisted of relatively underdeveloped national network serving mostly the urban cities and invariably, the limited international services were linked to switching centres of former colonial powers, building on this foundation, an ambitious development programme was designed and have been and still being implemented. A fundamental piece of this programme was the beginning of a planning process that would be flexible and adequate to provide an integrated PAN-African Telecommunication (PANAFTEL) Network. In recent years, the objectives of PANAFTEL were broadened to include the development of telecommunication facilities in the rural communities and to handle the social and economic disparities of each African countries. The policies that have emerged from the planning process were implemented in each member country and now forms the backbone of a regional telecommunications network.

9. With the establishment of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade for Africa (UNTACDA) Programme (1978 - 1988), the PANAFTEL, the most important single project in the communications programme, became an integral part of the Decade programme.

10. The PANAFTEL has developed from a simple network of HF radio circuits to a complex one of terrestrial microwave systems, submarine cables coaxial, satellite systems, and fibre optic networks. The present analogue transmission and switching systems are gradually being replaced by modern digital systems. Indications are that the trend of development of the network towards the year 2000, is towards extensive use of transmission systems using the newly developed fibre-optic technology. This technology, in fact, is being introduced in some African countries. The feasibility study for the Regional African Satellite Communication System (RASCOM) which when implemented would greatly complement and extend the PANAFTEL Network concept.

2.2 PANAFTEL Network

11. In analysing the stage of development which PANAFTEL has attained, it would be useful to divide the continent into four sub-regions, namely, North, Central, West, Eastern and Southern. Even though the five countries of the North African sub-regions are not considered to be part of the PANAFTEL Network, they still form part of the continent and should be considered as a part of the regional network.

12. The North Africa subregion has achieved an advanced operational network and is currently extending or replacing them with digital systems. The Central African Subregion, has so far achieved comparatively little progress in providing systems to interlink the various countries of the subregion. The West African subregion has completed the installation of a substantial amount of equipment, with transmission systems linking almost all of them, but unfortunately only parts of this network are opeational within the subregion. The Eastern and Southern Africa subregion has acquired an operational network within the subregion.

13. In addition to the terrestrial system, as has been analysed above, most African countries operate satellite earth stations via the International Telecommunications Satellite Organization (INTELSAT) for the provision of international and intra-Africa traffic and to facilitate the much needed sub-regional interconnectivity. A few countries also utilize leased capacity on INTELSAT Satellites for domestic communications.

14. Thus it can now truly be said that the basic regional African telecommunications networks infrastructure exists and that the interconnection of national networks, even though limited, is a forgoing powerful instrument of region-wide communications. For this very reason, it is also undeniably stimulating the development of the national networks and other economic sectors.

15. Unfortunately, these systems both the PANAFTEL Network and the INTELSAT Satellite communications earth stations do not cater adequately to the growing communications needs and requirements of the African countries.

16. Despite the varied progress achieved in the individual subregions, one of the fundamental limitations preventing improved utilization of the network is the lack of interconnectivity

via PANAFTEL network of the four subregions analyzed above, eventhough routing plans have been designed and agreed upon. Another limitation is the past concept of using the terrestrial PANAFTEL Network to connect this vast continent which is just not cost effective.

17. The main issues affecting the operation, modernization and extention of the PANAFTEL network are the lack of finance for the establishment of new links and the proper maintenance and operation of the existing networks; lack of manufacturing of telecommunications industries; reticence to change in the established practices in traffic routing, inadequate marketing and promotional endeavours for efficient utilization of existing facilities; and lack of agreements on regional tariff.

18. As regards communications via INTELSAT System, there are basically two reasons for its inadequacy. First the African earth stations working in the INTELSAT system and the satellites themselves are not optimally designed for domestic use. Second, the INTELSAT satellites are grouped into three regions: that is the Atlantic Ocean Region (AOR), Pacific Ocean Region (POR) and the Indian Ocean Region (IOR). In each of these regions, the operation of the satellites are configured into primary path and/or, major path 1 and 2. With 73 earth stations operating within Africa under different configurations, it is extremely difficult to establish direct intra-Africa communication links. Direct links are possible only for the group of countries located on the same satellite path.

2.3 National Networks

19. Consequent on the continuing development of the PANAFTEL Network, most African countries have established basic telecommunication networks embodying some of the latest technologies. Direct distance dialing has now become possible between almost all parts of some African countries, thanks to the installation of digital toll switches. Also International Subscriber Dialing (ISD) service and automatic telex and telefax services are now available in almost all African countries. These systems are striving to meet the ever increasing demand for telephone, telex, radio, television and other services. The efficiency and availability of these facilities are still by no means adequate for the needs of the respective countries and the region. Yet, they represent considerable improvement from those days when systematic telecommunications development plans had not started.

2.4 Progress on the Implementation of Regional African Satellite Communications System (RASCOM) Feasibility Study

20. The feasibility study on RASCOM, is a comprehensive study of the telecommunications infrastructure to enhance the economic and social development of the participating countries. Indeed, it is not aimed at one form of technology such as a satellite system, although this technique is expected to play a great role in the provision and improvement of communications services within Africa, especially in rural areas.

21. The primary objective of the study is to identify the telecommunication (including broadcasting) requirements of the participating countries with a view to proposing a composite system of appropriate, economic and financially viable solution using common resources, such as a regional satellite communication system, where ever feasible, and other relevant forms of technology, in order to respond to the requirements of individual countries.

22. The RASCOM feasibility study is now estimated to cost US$ 7.5 million and is being co-financed by grants from ADB, OAU, UNDP, UNESCO, ITU, Italy and Federal Republic of Germany.

23. The feasibility study is being carried out under the supreme authority of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, assisted by an Interim Executive Committee (IEC) which is charged with the technical responsibility of following up the implementation of the Project. The IEC is composed of senior telecommunications experts appointed by the ministrs responsible for telecommunications.

24. The study is based on national and regional level investigations of needs and solutions. At the national level the studies were undertaken principally by national multidisciplinary specialists who are well aware of the specific conditions and targets of development of their respective countires.

25. The National level activities of the RASCOM feasibility study was reviewed by the IACC - RASCOM and the IEC during their meetings held in Addis Ababa in October 1988.

26. The regional level activities of RASCOM feasibility study have already commenced and constitute basically terrestrial and satellite system studies.

27. The satellite system aspect of the study is in an advanced stage. The study is mainly directed towards identifying the various implementation options for a Regional Satellite system. To facilitate the activities of this section of the study, it has been divided into four tasks. TASK 1 - "Engineering of space communications sytem", TASK 2 - "Financial and socio-economic evaluation", TASK 3 - "Satellite system management and related aspects", and TASK 4 - "Comparison of options". Eight firms were invited to submit written proposals for the four tasks. Out of the three proposals received, taks 1 and 2 were awarded to the Telecommunications Consultants India LTD (TCIL) and Task 3 and 4 were awarded to the European Satellite Consulting Organization (ESCO).

28. As regards the terrestrial system study, it has also been divided into four tasks: Task 1 - Analysis of the Status of Telecommunciations in the African countries, Task 2 - Definition of Telecommunication Requirements, Task 3 - Rural systems and networks, and Task 4 - Planning of rural and model network. These four tasks will be undertaken by the Project Office staff complemented with 25 man-month of short-term experts.

29. Whilst undertaking the tasks above, the Project Office will pay adequate attention to coordination, wherever necessary, with other related on-going telecommunication projects within the continent, including the PANAFTEL projects.

30. The study is expected to be completed in August 1990 at which time a final decision on the future of RASCOM would be made by the appropriate bodies.

2.5 Development of Human Resources for Telecommunications

2.5.1 Advanced Technologies

31. Telecommuniation today is in a state irreversable process of change towards digital, satellite communications, fiber-optic and computer technologies. The merging of these technologies were made possible and economical by the remarkable progress of

semi-conductor devices from the transistor to the IC the LSI and now the VLSI. These devices, are expected to continue to become faster and more powerful in their functions, and larger in the scale of their integration. The impact of these changes will be to permit communications and information equipment to have higher performance with lower power consumption, and to permit greater miniaturization. A case in point, is a digital telephone exchange which does not differ very much from a computer, because the hardwares of both are made from the same family of integrated circuits technology.

32. Therefore, whether one speaks about upgrading of existing systems, or maintaining a high quality network, establishing telecommunication industries including research and development centres, or extending services to the rural communities of the African countries would require highly sophisticated and skilled manpower supply.

33. To secure and train the required high-level technical manpower, African countries must concentrate on the development of their human resources and proper utilization. The concentration of human resources development for telecommunications should be grouped in three categories: application-oriented specialists; system operation and maintenance; and research, development, design and fabrication of telecommunications equipment. A beginning point for the transfer of technology could be developing the indigenous capability of internalizing the imported equipment. This is one of the best ways to ensure continuity and sustainability of projects initiated with development aid and/or technical assistance.

34. In the non-technical areas, it is also essential that similar programmes be established for those responsible for the management of key functions of telecommunication services; e.g. good business practices including how to organize and supervise staff, the essentials of finance and marketing, good relations with the users, and so on.

2.5.2 Training

35. The Decade training objectives were geared towards ensuring that each African country should meet at least its basic training requirements (Level 4 - technician), that courses for other levels of training be provided in national or multinational African institutions and that specific programmes and courses be provided to the staff to improve their technical know-how, as well as to instructurs.

36. With the exception of about 5 countries, all African countries have a training centre for at least the basic level (level 4). The Comoros, Seychelles and Cape Verde are indeed small countries for which it would perhaps be too costly to create national schools. In any case, centres established in all the African countries can really meet all the basic training needs (level 4) of African countries.

2.5.3 Management

37. Management is one of the weak points of African telecommunications administrations. Sound management will be possible only through the use of modern management methods based on computerization, control panels, organization charts, performance indicators etc., and on the separation of the post and telecommunications entities. Some countries like Cote d'Ivoire, Senegal and Burkina Faso have separated the two bodies without problem. However, it appears that most of the African countries continue to operate with the old structures which are sometimes reorganized to give telecommunications greater budgetary autonomy.

2.5.4 Operation and maintenance

38. The operation and maintenance objectives have practically been achieved as far as the North African countries are concerned. With regard to the countries South of the Sahara, these objectives have not yet been achieved despite the considerable progress made in recent years. No country has implemented a national improvement and maintenance plan and almost none of the countries concerned have yet completed the elaboration of such a plan. The implementation of national improvement and maintenance plans by the various countries will require substantial financial resources which must be sought.

2.5.5 Planning of Telecommunications Services

39. As regards the development planning of telecommunications facilities and services, it is to a large extent being taken care of in the following three projects at the regional level: PANAFTEL Network; the RASCOM Project and Development of Human Resources for Telecommunications Services.

40. At the national level the planning process is concerned mostly with the provision of the right amount of equipment of the necessary quality to meet expected development for new lines or improved services as well as overall development policy. In this connection, within the last UNTACDA framework, the ECA has provided expert services through technical assistance to telecommunication organizations in the planning and expansion of their integrated telecommunication networks. Also most administrations have developed a Master Plan. The preparation of Master Plans and the establishment of planning units would have to be considered as priority during UNTACDA II.

2.6 Rural telecommunications

41. Despite the efforts during UNTACDA I, to extend telecommunication faciltieis and services to the rural communities, unfortunately, the distribution of telecommunications services are still grossly unbalanced in favour of urban centres.

42. In most African countries, one or two major towns account for 50 to 60 per cent of the telephone. Generally the urban to rural telephone density or accessibility ratio falls in the range of 10.1, which is the reverse of the population. It is expected that the RASCOM project will supplement the PANAFTEL in reversing this trend.

2.7 Establishment of Telecommunication Manufacturing Industries

43. With its vast natural resources, Africa has a phenomental potential for industrial revolution. Yet, the present status of industrial development in Africa is below that of any other continent. Only a few African countries do manufacture some telecommunication equipment.

44. The fundamental problem is apt to reside in the shortage of available foreign exchange and the lack of a co-ordinated approach in the African countries. However, a well managed manufacturing of telecommunication equipment and systems in Africa shows great promise, and certainly would facilitate the development of solutions peculiar to Africa, such as the need to adequately deliver telecommunication services to sparsely populated areas and most importantly to sustain the development of telecommunication infrastructure and services.

45. Recognizing the need for a co-ordinated approach and to reduce the outflow of the already limited foreign exchange, the ECA introduced into the First UNTA/CDA Programme a project - "Feasibility Study on the Establishment of Telecommunication Manufacturing Industries".

46. The development objective of this project is to improve the transfer of technology to Africa and the industrialization of the region by assisting in the establishment of industries for the production of variety of telecommunication components, instruments, equipment and plants. The immediate objectives are to investigate and assess existing manufacturing capability in telecommunications with the possibility of merging some of them, prepare a comprehensive report representing all options and recommend long and short-term plans for establishing telecommunication industries at regional, subregional or multinational levels and to arrange for the effective transfer of technology to, and ensure the availability of skilled manpower in the region.

47. In April 1988, UNDP funded a four-month preparatory assistnce project to find out possible ways and means of conducting most efficiently the feasibility study for the establishment of telecommunication industries in Africa. The project was executed by ITU in collaboration with ECA, PATU and UNIDO. As a result, a project document has been submitted to UNDP for funding.

3. Telecommunications Development in the Years 1991-2000

3.1 Background

48. In January 1987 an African Telecommunications Development Conference was held in Tunisia, in accordance with Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/84 - Telecommunications for socio-economic development. The Conference was jointly organized by the PANAFTEL Co-ordinating Committee - OAU, ECA, ADB, PATU and ITU.

49. The main objective of the Conference was to provide a forum for African countries, international, regional and other agencies concerned with (or interested in) African Telecommunications, to review the Progress of Telecommunications Development in Africa

so as to define achievable targets and strategies in line with the Arusha Declaration on World-Wide Telecommunications Development, for the development of telecommunications in Africa towards the year 2000.

50. The Conference was organized along the following six fundamental themes: Preparation of the Arusha Declaration, Review of Telecommunications in Africa, Towards Telecommunications in the Year 2000, The financing of Telecommunications Development, the Management of Resources, and Strategy for the development of telecommunications in Africa.

51. The Conference adopted three resolutions and five recommendations which laid down the trend of telecommunications development in Africa towards the year 2000.

52. Subsequently the evaluation of UNTACDA I concluded that the objectives of the first programme are, by and large, still valid and should form the basis for the second Decade programme. These aimed at establishing integrated transport and communications systems in Africa as a basis for the physical integration of the continent; improving the efficiency of the systems and facilitating national and international traffic; and fostering co-operation among African countries in order to achieve self-sustaining economic development in accordance with the African Alternative Framework to Structural Adjustment Programmes for Socio-economic Recovery and Transformation. It is clear, therefore that a considerable amount of work remains to be done to continue the effort commenced during the first UNTACDA.

53. Building on the foundation of UNTACDA I, a set of global and subsector objectives, strategies and guidelines for UNTACDA II have been prepared by the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee. Subject to the approval of the African Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and planning scheduled for November 1989, these will form the guiding principles for the preparation and implementation of the programme.

3.2 UNTACDA II Objectives

54. Long-term Objective: Development of an integrated telecommunications network based on well defined national, subregional and regional policy guidelines for development

including among other things, the accessibility to telephones in rural areas.

55. Areas of concentration:

(i) Management and development of human resources;

(ii) Mainteannce, rehabilitation and modernization of existing telecommunication infrastructural facilites;

(iii) Improvement in the management of telecommunications services;

(iv) Establishment of effective and operational planning units within national telecommunications administrations;

(v) Establishment, harmonization and implementation of tariffs agreement at sub-regional and regional levels;

(vi) Promotion of transiting of a high percentage of intra African communications through centres in Africa by utilising the installed PANAFTEL Network;

(vii) Development of research and manufacturing capacity;

(viii) Completion of the missing links of the PANAFTEL Network;

(ix) Implementation of the RASCOM project;

(x) Strengthening of the PAN-African Telecommunications Union (PATU);

(xi) Provision of services for special users such as news agencis, air transport, broadcasting and meteorological services;

(xii) Extension of services into rural areas;

(xiii) Promotion of, institutional restructuring of existing organizations for improving operational efficiency and the process of commercialization of these organizations.

3.3 Preparation and Implementation of UNTACDA II

56. A programme such as UNTACDA provides the African countries with a suitable framework for co-ordinating the development of transport and communications sectors. There exists several subregional economic groupings which can form a basis for regional co-ordination, and such co-ordination must, therefore, necessarily involve several partners each with a clearly defined role.

57. The report on the evaluation of UNTACDA I clearly pointed out that the subregional economic organizations as well as the specialized African intergovernmental organizations did not participate adequately in the conceputualization, planning or execution of the First Decade Programme. The report recommended that all future programmes should clearly define a framework for greater participation of these organizations, along with the relevant United Nations agencies and the African States. In view of the importance of IGO's, it is expected that during the Second Decade they will become a major source of projects and major partners in development.

58. In formulating the global strategy for UNTACDA I, an attempt was made to define the roles of some of the partners, notably ECA as the lead agency, the MULPOCs and the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee. This attempt, however, was deficient on two grounds: first, except for ECA, the roles were vaguely defined and, second, it left out the roles of several other partners. It is, therefore, essential during UNTACDA II that there be a precise and comprehensive definition of the roles of the different parties involved. The following are the descriptions of these roles.

3.3.1 The African States

59. There is no question but that the onus of development lies on the member States themselves. The United Nations agencies and the international community at large can only provide support to the African endeavours. Thus, the African Governments are expected to continue to accord a high priority to the development of transport and communications sectors and to allocate sufficient resources to the sectors, individually as well as collectively, through the programmes of relevant regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations and the subregional economic organizations.

3.3.2 Subregional economic organizations

60. The subregional economic organizations will assist member States and play a key role in the formulation and implementation of the Second Decade programme. They will prepare action oriented projects within the subregion to meet the objectives of the Second Decade and will assist States in addressing and attaining the objectives of the Second Decade at the national levels. To do this, the subregional organizations will have the technical support of sectoral African intergovernmental organizations and UN and other international agencies.

61. Development plans of the various subregions shall then be consolidated to form a coherent regional plan for development. The ten-year programme may then be developed in a similar manner.

3.3.3 Sectoral African Intergovernmental Organizations and UN Agencies

62. This group includes all African IGO's and UN agencies in the field of transport and communications at both subregional and regional levels. These organizations differ from the subregional economic organizations in that each is specialized in one, and only one, subsector of transport and communications.

63. In future, in order to increase their participation in the development programme, the existing organizations need to be strengthened, as called for in resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.88/70 passed by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning at its meeting at Kinshasa in March 1988.

64. International organization may, upon request initiate programmes, projects and policies in co-ordination with the States, sub-regional and regional organizations and in collaboration with ECA. These organizations shall be responsible for drawing up sectoral programmes following the guidelines for project preparation and submissions which have been set.

65. By virtue of its role as a regional economic commission of the UN, ECA is most suited to co-ordinate the activities of these UN organizations in Africa, particularly in transport and communications where there is need to co-ordinate the various subsectors to form an integrated system for the region.

66. At the centre of all UN development efforts is the United Nations development Programme. In the first Decade, UNDP played a major role by providing financing to establish the Decade Co-ordination Unit at ECA in addition to directly financing several Decade projects. The UNDP should continue to play this role in UNTACDA II and its field offices should assist subregional organizations and ECA in promoting the programme at the country level.

3.3.4 Financial Institutions

67. The financial institutions of the UN system as well as the African regional and subregional financial institutions have an important role to play in ensuring the financing of Decade projects. in this regard, they have the responsibility to finance the national projects that meet the Decade objectives and regional projects sponsored by the UN specialized agencies and African IGOs. Some of these institutions (UNDP, ADB, World Bank) are members of the Resource Mobilization Committee which is charged with the task of seeking finance for projects and giving advice on the orientation of the programme in the light of prevailing macro-economic conditions. In addition, some of them, such as the World Bank and UNDP may execute Decade projects in their own right.

3.3.5 Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee (IACC)

68. This is the co-ordination committee consisting of all relevant United Nations agencies and African intergovernmental organizations involved in the fields of tansport and communications in Africa. It is the IACC which monitors and carrys out periodic evaluation of the programme and makes recommendations on matters such as the coherence of the programme and its validity and direction to the Conference of Ministers through the intergovernmental meeting of experts.

69. In the first Decade, the roles of the various groups which made up the IACC were not clearly defined, which resulted in some confusion and ineffectiveness in the execution of the Decade programme. Various sub-committees of the IACC shall therefore be careated to deal with specific issues that may arise in the preparation and implementation of the programme. One of these committees is the resource Mobilization Committee (RMC) which has been established consisting of ADB, OAU, UNDP, BADEA, World Bank, EEC and ECA.

This Committee is, above all, charged with the effective marketing of the Decade programme. To this end, it will strive to establish methods for effective mobilization of resources for the implementation of the programme.

3.3.6 ECA - Lead Agency

70. The Economic Commission for africa was appointed the lead agency for the Decade programme. This role has been reconfirmed by the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning in its resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.88/73 made at its sixth meeting in Kinshasa in March 1988. As the lead agency, ECA among other things, is "... responsible, in collaboration with other agencies, for the preparation of the Decade programme and for the harmonization, co-ordination and monitoring of all Decade activities, ...".

71. The overall co-ordination of the second decade programme will be the responsibility of the lead agency which will report to the Conference of Ministers through the IACC. In addition, to its coordinating and reporting role the lead agency with the advise of the RMC, will initaite any additional activities aimed at achieving the objectives of the Second Decade.

4. Institutional Framework

72. The Conference of Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning established during UNTACDA I are judged to be still appropriate and shall continue to be the permanent policy-making body for the conception, implementation and monitoring of the Decade programme.

4.1 The Inter Agency Co-ordinating Committee

73. The IACC, grouping United Nations bodies, African intergovernmental organizations and financial institutions, shall, among other things, prepare the programmes to be submitted to the preparatory committees of national officials and subsequently to the Ministerial Conference. It shall meet at least once a year.

74. The Resource Mobilization Committee shall be a sub-committee of the IACC. Other sectoral sub-committees may also be established as necessary.

4.2 The Lead Agency

75. The Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) shall, as decided by the UN General Assembly in resoltion 43/179 of Decemeber 1988, continue to be the lead agency for UNTACDA II as it was for UNTACDA I.

5. Conclusion

76. Although in both Eastern and Southern Africa subregions, immense progress have been made in the implementation of the PANAFTEL and National Networks, however, one of the basic goals of the PANAFTEL network is the interconnection of not only countries of this subregions but other subregions within the continent.

77. To further improve the use of the telecommunication facilities as well as prevent deterioration UNTACDA II puts emphasis on Human resources development, national operation efficiency, maintenance and most importantly operational co-ordination.

78. The operational co-ordination aims at elimination of institutional obstacles to the interconnection of traffic, harmonization of standards, programmes and policies between the PTA and SADCC/SATCC as well as the promotion of bi and multi-lateral agreements and operations within and outside the subregion.

79. In this framework, UNTACDA II would expect that the ARTC as individual members of the PTA and SADCC/SATCC would play a major role in these organizations and their respective countries in ensuring that during the designing of the telecommunications development programme of the subregions, all those projects to be submitted for inclusion into the UNTACDA II programme shall be co-ordinated and should conform first, to the individual national development plans and as much as possible seek to promote one of the basic objectives of PANAFTEL, viz. Regional Connectivity and Tariffs.